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THE STAR CHAMBER TO BLAME.

The interview with Senator Chillingworth on the trend of public opinion in regard to the local reform movement, deals especially with the work of the License Board. The Advertiser thinks that the results reached by this Board have been generally beneficial, but it agrees with Senator Chillingworth that they have, at the same time, created a feeling in the town which may lead the Legislature to divest the Commission of its powers and turn them over to the Supervisors—a recourse which would go far to put the saloon in charge of the political situation in both parties, with all which that implies.

How is it that, when the work of the Board has been generally good, public feeling should have grown hostile? We attribute it mostly to the executive session or star-chamber method of procedure where a man's property or business interests are at stake. If there is one thing the civilized mind abhors, it is a judgment upon men or measures by a secret tribunal. Under the common law every man accused of anything punishable has the right to know what the charges are against him, and the right to be heard in his own defence and to face and question the witnesses opposed to him. In courts these rights are not questioned, but in administrative departments or bureaus of the government they are not infrequently ignored, often to the defeat of justice. Choose our License Board as an example. It takes up the vital question of whether a man may keep on running a saloon or restaurant where liquor is sold—that is to say, keep on earning his livelihood in the way he has chosen; and going into secret session it considers charges of which the man knows nothing, hears arguments which he has no chance to combat, and, as in the case of "Scotty" Meston, suddenly throws him out of a business in which he has invested his all. We are not here to defend that business; we should like to see the liquor traffic voted out of Hawaii; but as the liquor trade is still recognized in law, it should have fair play before the law. No single vested interest, which the State recognizes and charters should ever be subjected to secret and ex-parte methods of regulation, least of all to such methods of extirpation. It should have justice—an open hearing before an open and fair-minded tribunal. In Mr. Meston's case, it may have been right and in the public interest to take away his license; but it was not right to do it as the result of a star-chamber council, and it was unrighteous not to let the defendant or any one else know why it was done. Such procedure is opposed to principles for which the Anglo-Saxon race has fought for hundreds of years; it is opposed to principles which lie near the heart of free institutions; it is opposed to the instinct of fairness between man and man, which every normal mind either possesses or appreciates.

And what is bound to come of it? Senator Chillingworth says it is making the pendulum of reform swing backward, and we believe him. Some other things that have occurred in this community are having the same effect. Unless the star chamber dissolves and liquor-license hearings and deliberations are as open and free as are hearings of any kind in the Legislature, we shall have no hope for the continuance of the License Board, and shall expect to see the prophecy of Senator Chillingworth fulfilled as to the testamentary direction of its powers.

HOW TO GET A LARGE GARRISON.

Judging from the approval given by Congressman Hepburn and by a large number of army officers to the idea of having an acclimatization camp established here, it is by pushing that idea, as we believe, rather than the one of a domestic military police, that the most can be achieved at Washington toward the increase of our regular garrison. For domestic military purposes we must depend, in the main, on the National Guard, and these citizen troops, we are told, will have to be trained to assist in the defences. Speaking with authority, Major Haan of the General Staff says we may not expect a large regular force, owing to the rival needs of other fortified points; but this objection, which might be fatal in the case of a mere ambitious demand for a larger post, would not affect the acclimatization proposal, which, in its final analysis, would mean the cantonment of even more troops on Oahu than we are asking for.

The points are these: The United States has sent part of its army into the Pacific tropics, the Philippines and Panama; and it is the custom to suddenly transfer men and horses from the northern posts of the mainland to service there. Naturally, it takes a good while for the troops and their animals to accustom themselves to the change, and meanwhile they are not quite fit, and many are put on the sick list. Would it not be wiser, therefore, to keep a mixed force of infantry, cavalry and artillery here, on the edge of the tropics, so that transfers to points nearer the equator may be made from them rather than from garrisons in the north? We should have troops coming and going much of the time, but a certain number would be continually here, answering the purposes of local defence.

This proposition, when made by the Advertiser a few years ago, got the assent of the officers of the post here, and it has been discussed by any number of army men since, without, so far as we know, meeting the slightest opposition. Congressman Hepburn, who may be the next Speaker of the House, was enthusiastic for it; and all it needs now to give it footing is formal reference to the President or Secretary of War.

The death of General Stephen D. Lee leaves Colonel John S. Mosby almost the only living Confederate officer of national distinction. Colonel Mosby is now employed in the Attorney-General's department at Washington. During C. P. Huntington's lifetime he had a similar billet in the Southern Pacific law department at San Francisco, Mr. Huntington having promised General Grant to look after the Confederate officer, for whom Grant had a strong admiration. Although never commanding more than five hundred men at a time, Colonel Mosby, by his constant cavalry raids in the border country, neutralized the services of 40,000 Union troops by compelling them to guard exposed lines of communication. But for that they would have been free to operate against the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. No other Confederate colonel had such a chance or was able to win such national fame.

It shows how little the State of Nevada is known even to its own people that, only now, a mountain has been found that is higher than Shasta, and that there are expectations of discovering another one just as high. Despite the fact that Nevada has been in the Union since Civil War days, its record of exploration is quite cursory. The State, though over twice the size of Pennsylvania, had, by the last census, a population no larger than the present one of Honolulu, counting in Indians and Chinese. Naturally, there are not enough people to go with all the scenery, and some high spots, especially in the Ralston desert, may fairly complain of neglect.

San Francisco need not worry about the peril of a future war with Japan, a phase of discomfort of which Mr. Haskin says she is still possessed. Whatever happens, San Francisco will be safe, for so long as Hawaii stands impregnable no foe from the other side of the Pacific will bother the coast south of Alaska. If a war should ever ensue over the Philippines—which it won't if the United States has the sense to get out when the Filipinos are ready for self-government—Japan would naturally keep the sphere of hostilities there so as to have the advantages of a near-by base and force the United States to do the long-range fighting.

Henry Watterson has been one of the bitterest of anti-Bryan men in the South. In 1896 he supported the ticket of the Gold Democracy, and in 1900 was still openly rebellious. Four years ago he helped nominate Alton B. Parker. The change that has come over him seems due to the growing conservatism of Bryan as compared with the growing radicalism of the dominant Republican leaders. Among the New York old-school Democratic editors, however, are no signs of change, Mr. Pulitzer, especially, having burned the bridges between him and the Bryan camp. Nor is Mr. Ochs of the Times in any better position to return.

Though this journal has for years opposed the spending of local money on exhibits at big mainland fairs, it believes an exception should be made in favor of the Alaska-Yukon Exposition at Seattle. Congress will supply us with $25,000 as a nucleus fund and attend to the housing of an exhibit. As some more money will be needed, the Legislature may wisely provide it, as Hawaii needs Seattle trade and would be benefited as respects desirable mainland population by showing its agricultural possibilities at the big fair.

THE FUTURE OF ROOSEVELT.

Here is a prediction: If Taft is elected and re-elected, the energies of the administration, eight years hence, will be bent upon the nomination of Roosevelt.

Here is another: If Bryan beats Taft, the nomination of Roosevelt, four years hence, will be a foregone conclusion.

Whatever happens, Roosevelt, if he lives, will cut a large figure in the national politics of the future. It is impossible to conceive him gowned like a cloistered monk in the presidency of any college. There is nothing in him to remind one of the mediaeval emperor who retired to a monastery. In the prime of his life and the flush of his powers he will keep on seeking great public tasks.

It is reported that an effort will be made to exclude writers for the press from the inter-island tour of Secretary Garfield and his local escort. Why this discrimination should be made, if it is designed to be made, we do not know; but we are quite sure that the press, if compelled to lay the matter before the Secretary, will receive the same consideration from him that it uniformly does, under similar circumstances, from the President.

Hydrophobia has vanished from England after a systematic effort to get rid of it. All dogs from foreign countries are now quarantined there, no exemption for household pets being granted to ambassadors, cabinet ministers or Duchesses. New York, where dogs run at large, almost as freely as they do in Constantinople, has an annual epidemic of the rabies.

SAN FRANCISCO THINKS THERE IS MORE IN CANAL FOR HER THAN HAWAII

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'Key to the Pacific.' This is true only when an ordinary map, which is but a flat projection of a curved surface, is used. When the question of transpacific routes is studied on a globe, a totally different state of affairs is found to exist, and we find that Hawaii lies near only a single trade route, namely, that from San Francisco to Australia. The shortest distance between any two points on a sphere is by a 'great circle,' that is, a line cut on the surface of the sphere by a plane passing through the two points in question and the center of the sphere itself. The great circle connecting Panama with Japan and China or any point on the eastern Asiatic coast passes through the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, Galveston, Denver, strikes the Pacific Coast of the United States north of Seattle, and skirts the Aleutian Islands. The navigator will keep his ship as close to the above route between the Isthmus and any port in the Far East as land permits. That is, after passing through the canal, he will first go south, then northwest along the coast of Central America and Mexico, and, after clearing Cape St. Lucas, the southern end of Lower California, he will take the great circle from there to Asia, and this great circle will carry him about 1700 miles to the east of Hawaii and only 300 miles west of San Francisco. As the ordinary tramp freight steamer can not, or will not wish to, carry enough coal to take her from the Isthmus to Asia, she will have to stop at the most convenient intermediate point for coal and supplies. This point will be San Francisco, distant 3277 miles from Panama and 4536 miles from Yokohama; and in order to make such call she will be lengthening her passage only 110 miles, or less than half a day in time over the shortest possible course in a total distance of 7813 miles. The extraordinary result—one apparently not generally understood by the American public—is that San Francisco will become the 'key' and gateway of the Pacific, where all vessels going to the Far East, not only from the Atlantic seaboard, but from Europe as well, will stop for coal and supplies. * * * At no place will the existence of the canal be more in evidence than at San Francisco, where a continuous procession of east and westbound steamers will be stopping daily. These steamers will make San Francisco a great competitive point for through freight shipments."

Thus the great engineer. Passengers going from San Francisco to Yokohama before the acquisition of Hawaii, found that instead of sailing for Yokohama by the rhumb-line—that is, always on on course—the ships took a course to the northwest and sailed up to forty-eight degrees, making what is known as the great circle, thereby cutting 246 miles from the distance between the two ports.

The United States Hydrographic Office publishes a gnomonic chart of the Pacific Ocean, a curious and interesting affair whereon the land areas are strangely distorted. This gnomonic chart is based upon a system of projection, the plane of which is tangent to the earth's surface at a point on the equator in longitude 155 degrees west of Greenwich, and the eye of the spectator is supposed to be situated at the center of the earth, whence, being at once in the plane of every great circle, it will see these circles projected as straight lines. A straight line drawn between any two points or places on the chart represents an arc of the great circle passing through them, and is, therefore, the shortest possible track between them, showing also all the geographical localities through which the most direct route passes.

Mr. Parsons says in conclusion that the "canal will bring the grain fields of the northwestern Pacific States 6000 miles nearer Liverpool, and it will bring the iron and coal of the Gulf States shipped from New Orleans and Pensacola 6500 miles nearer San Francisco; giving to the former a new great market not now open and to the latter a cheap supply of the raw materials of manufacturing."

In writing of the advantages that will accrue to San Francisco in the way of manufactures, Mr. Parsons did not enter into the matter of oil production in California. California is the largest oil-producing State in the Union, and the product is far in excess of consumption. But the use of oil as fuel is in its infancy. The statistics of the Agricultural Department give the use of petroleum as but 3 per cent. of the total amount of fuel used. Its use for this purpose is being rapidly extended, and its excellence and cheapness make it most desirable for all manufacturing plants, locomotives, steamships, etc. The Orient is a large importer of cotton and cotton goods, mineral oils, manufactures of iron and steel, flour and meats. The import of cotton goods alone amounts to $250,000,000 per year. There is no reason why San Francisco, with its location and its cheap fuel, should not become a great manufacturing center.

A FINE EDITORIAL DESK.

The Henry Castle memorial desk, a gift of the Castle Estate to the editorial room of the Advertiser, is being made by the Office Specialty Co. It will be a beautiful creation of high-grade koa, six feet in length and thirty-two inches in width, with roller top and all the modern improvements for filing and indexing. A silver plate will carry the memorial inscription. Mr. Castle preceded Mr. Armstrong as editor of the Advertiser, a period between of two or three years being temporarily supplied. It was while hurrying back to his work in this office during the uprising of 1895, that Mr. Castle lost his life in the sinking of the German liner Elbe.